

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 934

By Watson

A RESOLUTION to recognize Jim Morgan on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those citizens who have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm throughout their years of industry; and

WHEREAS, Jim Morgan, head coach of the Baylor School wrestling team for the past twenty-five years, is one such estimable person who has served with distinction for fifty years as wrestling coach and leader in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Morgan embarked upon a much deserved retirement following the Baylor School wrestling team's recent capture of the school's thirteenth team traditional state championship title, the ninth such title to be won by a Baylor School team during Jim Morgan's tenure; and

WHEREAS, a successful coach for the past fifty years, Jim Morgan first coached at Red Bank Junior High School in the early 1960s. Following his years at Red Bank, he served as an assistant coach at McCallie School for a number of years, stood for one year as the head coach at Pine Crest School in Florida, and was the head coach of the team at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga (UTC) for sixteen years; and

WHEREAS, during his twenty-five years as the head coach at the Baylor School, Coach Morgan led his teams to an incredible 539-84-1 record and captured nine traditional team state titles and six state duals titles; he also coached more than fifty individual state champions, including four-time winners Jordan Leen and Bailey Whitaker; and

WHEREAS, Jim Morgan also coached the Moccasin teams to an impressive number of victories, accumulating 203 wins during his tenure as the head coach at UTC. During his

sixteen years at the helm, he led the Blue and Gold to two top-five finishes at the NCAA Division II Tournament and coached sixteen NCAA All-Americans and three NCAA individual champions: Randy Batten, Turner Jackson, and David Weeks; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, Coach Morgan has been inducted in the Chattanooga Hall of Fame, the Baylor School Hall of Fame, and the Tennessee Chapter of the National Wrestling Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, a leader among his peers and an administrator of the highest order, Coach Morgan served as the director of the state traditional tournament for twenty-five years; and

WHEREAS, it was during his sophomore year at McCallie School that Jim Morgan first took up the sport of wrestling. Since those early days, he has made countless contributions to the wrestling world, not least of which was his commitment to guiding his wrestlers through the lessons of life as well as the lessons of the sport of wrestling; and

WHEREAS, Coach Morgan exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Jim Morgan has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of his colleagues and his wrestlers; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we extend to Jim Morgan our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in his future endeavors, applauding his outstanding career as a wrestling coach.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.